

**Education and Student Affairs Committee**  
Board of Regents, State of Iowa

**Subject:** Programmatic Re-Accreditation Reports at Iowa State University

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**Date:** March 2, 2005

**Recommended  
Action:**

Receive the following accreditation reports from Iowa State University:

- College of Veterinary Medicine
- bachelor of science in computer science
- Child Development Laboratory School
- doctoral program in counseling psychology
- bachelor's degree programs in the Department of Music
- master of public administration program in the Department of Political Science

**Executive  
Summary:**

This agenda item reports on accreditation reviews for six programs or units at Iowa State University. Each program or unit covered in this report underwent a self-study that addressed the criteria defined by its accrediting agency and had an on-site visit by peer evaluators.

The programs and units have responded to the concerns or recommendations identified in the on-site visit reports. Four of the programs or units were accredited for the full period allowed by their respective accrediting agencies.

Complete copies of the materials related to these accreditation reports, including the self-studies, on-site visiting team reports, institutional responses, and letters of formal notification of accreditation, are on file in the Board Office.

**College of Veterinary Medicine**

**Description**

The College of Veterinary medicine is the administrative home of five academic departments as well as several research and clinical units (including, for example, the Veterinary Medical Research Institute and Veterinary Teaching Hospital). The instructional programs in the college prepare students for roles as health care deliverers and biomedical scientists.

**Accrediting  
Agency**

The American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is a scientific and professional organization that represents veterinary education and practice in the United States and is the recognized agency for accreditation of programs in veterinary medicine. Veterinary medical degrees can only be earned at institutions accredited by the AVMA.

On-Site Visit  
Team Report

AVMA's Council on Education conducted an on-site visit by peer evaluators in October, 2003.

The site-visit team report addressed the eleven standards of AVMA accreditation. The college was found to be in compliance with 10 of the 11 standards/criteria. The college was found to be not in compliance with the agency's standard on physical facilities and equipment. As a result, the college received limited accreditation for a period of up to two years.

In January 2005, the College submitted to the AVMA's Council on Education a report of progress made toward correcting the deficiencies cited by the council, including a detailed sequential plan and timetable for actions to be taken to meet the requirements for Full Accreditation.

The AVMA is expected to formally receive this report at its meeting on March 6-8, 2005. The college anticipates receiving AVMA's response to the progress report by May, 2005.

Strengths  
highlighted  
by the review team

The review team identified the following as some of the strengths of the program:

- faculty are well-qualified in their disciplines, and are committed educators and compassionate mentors;
- there has been a significant increase in extramural research funding by the faculty of the CVM;
- students are articulate, enthusiastic, and supportive of the CVM.
- The Center for Food Security and Public Health has the potential to grow into a major asset for the CVM, university, and the state of Iowa;
- the public health program shared with the University of Iowa could potentially provide expertise in a critical area of national need.

Concerns identified  
by the review team

The AVMA site-visit report provided recommendations for improvement in a number of areas.

In particular, however, the AVMA has indicated that the college must make the following improvements to regain full accreditation:

1. the large animal/equine hospital isolation facility for infectious enteric diseases must be replaced or repaired in order to provide isolation for infectious diseases;
2. renovation/construction in the food animal and equine hospital must be undertaken to address deteriorating infrastructure.

Accreditation  
Status

The AVMA granted the college the status of limited accreditation. The date for the next complete site-visit and evaluation has not been set.

## **Bachelor of Science in Computer Science**

Description	The B.S. in computer science is intended to prepare students for positions as computer scientists with business, industry, and government, or for graduate study in computer science. The program resides in the Department of Computer Science. There are 631 undergraduate students in the program.
Accrediting Agency	The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) is the recognized agency for accreditation of programs in applied science, computing, engineering, and technology.
On-Site Visit Team Report	<p>The ABET on-site visit by peer evaluators was conducted in October, 2003. The team report addressed the 55 criteria of accreditation in seven categories. The program was found to meet the intent of all seven categories of accreditation criteria. The visit report, however, did cite a weakness with respect to one category, namely, "laboratories and computing facilities."</p> <p>The program has provided a response to the agency with respect to this weakness and to the other concerns identified in the on-site visit report.</p>
Strengths highlighted by the review team	<p>The review team identified the program faculty as a strength. Other examples of strengths identified in the site-visit report include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• very talented new faculty;</li><li>• research funding is rising rapidly and several faculty have outstanding research programs;</li><li>• the professional quality of the library staff and library resources;</li><li>• excellence of office support personnel.</li></ul>
Concerns identified by the review team	<p>The on-site visit report cited concerns with laboratories and computing facilities as a weakness. These concerns have to do with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• inadequate student access to computer systems;</li><li>• inadequate support personnel to maintain laboratories and computing facilities.</li></ul> <p>In addition to shortages of space and computing resources for students, examples of other concerns cited in the visit report include the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Shortage of faculty office space.</li><li>• The quality of interaction between students and teaching assistants in lower division courses is inconsistent.</li><li>• The program is not providing sufficient exposure to a variety of programming languages and systems.</li><li>• The program is not providing sufficient coverage of the social and ethical implications of computing.</li></ul>
Accreditation Status	ABET extended accreditation status to the program through September, 2006, or three years. The maximum period of ABET accreditation is six years. The program must submit a report to ABET by July, 2005 describing the actions taken to correct the shortcomings identified by the evaluation visit. A site-visit is not required for the next re-accreditation evaluation.

## Child Development Laboratory School

Description	<p>The laboratory school provides university students with the opportunities to learn about young children and their families and prepares university students to become early childhood teachers and administrators. The school also serves as a research laboratory for undergraduate and graduate students and faculty. The school enrolls children ages 2 through 12.</p>
Accrediting Agency	<p>The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) sets professional standards for and accredits postsecondary degree programs in early childhood education as well as preschools, kindergartens, and child care centers. The NAEYC visit reported here was for accreditation of the laboratory school.</p>
On-Site Visit Team Report	<p>The NAEYC agency on-site visit by peer evaluators was conducted in October, 2003. Agency accreditation is based on a process of criteria validation and verification. The visit report addresses 122 criteria for accreditation in ten categories. The school was found to be in full compliance with 115 criteria and in partial compliance with seven.</p> <p>The school is required to address the criteria cited in the validation report in its next annual report to NAEYC. All NAEYC-accredited programs are required to submit annual reports.</p>
Strengths highlighted by the review team	<p>The validation team highlighted the following strengths of the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• interactions among teachers and children;</li><li>• providing engaging and developmentally appropriate curriculum;</li><li>• efficient, effective, and inclusive program administration;</li><li>• effective ongoing evaluation and assessment.</li></ul>
Concerns identified by the review team	<p>Of the 122 review criteria, the school was found to only “partially compliant” with seven. These criteria include the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the building, play yard, and all equipment are maintained in safe, clean condition and in good repair;</li><li>• programs with non-English speaking families provide materials in the family’s native language or arrange for translation.</li></ul> <p>In addition, the NAEYC review team recommended the laboratory make improvements in the area of staff qualifications and development.</p>
Accreditation Status	<p>The NAEYC extended accreditation status to the laboratory school for five years, the maximum period possible. The school’s accreditation is valid through 2007-2008.</p>

## Doctoral program in Counseling Psychology

Description	The doctoral program in counseling psychology is housed administratively in the Department of Psychology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The program is a generalist, scientist-practitioner program, which prepares graduates for work as academic psychologists in higher education or as professional psychologists in applied settings.
Accrediting Agency	The American Psychological Association (APA) is a scientific and professional organization that represents psychology in the United States and is the recognized accreditation agency for doctoral programs in clinical, counseling, and school psychology.
On-Site Visit Team Report	<p>The APA on-site visit by peer evaluators was conducted in February 2004. The team report addressed the agency's seven domains for accreditation of doctoral graduate programs. The visit found the program to be consistent with the standards for accreditation for all domains.</p> <p>The program has provided a written acknowledgment to the APA of the review report. The program is required to address several issues in its next annual report to the APA. All APA-accredited programs are required to submit annual reports.</p>
Strengths highlighted by the review team	<p>The review indicated that the program is well-run, and attentive to the needs of students. The review team particularly highlighted the following strengths of the school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a highly productive and nationally respected faculty;</li><li>• excellent clerical, technical, and computer support for the program;</li><li>• excellent training equipment, materials, offices, and lab space for faculty and students;</li><li>• the department's exemplary work to diversify the faculty;</li><li>• commitment to excellence through periodic reviews of program goals and objectives;</li><li>• efficient and well-organized in evaluation of students.</li></ul>
Concerns identified by the review team	<p>The review team identified some concerns. These include the following examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the timing and coordination of course offerings has some inefficiencies;</li><li>• the need to provide course work covering the biological and affective aspects of behavior;</li><li>• the need to provide coverage of the current body of knowledge in theories and methods of supervision;</li><li>• the need to appropriately orient master's degree program students to doctoral program admission requirements.</li></ul>
Accreditation Status	The agency extended accreditation status to the program through 2011, or seven years, the maximum period possible.

## **Bachelor's Degree Programs in the Department of Music**

Description	<p>The undergraduate curriculum of the music department provides a comprehensive program of professional studies for students who wish to prepare for careers in music, including teaching, performance, and composition, and for students who plan to pursue graduate studies in music. The bachelor's degree programs in the music department include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• B.A. in Music</li><li>• B.M. in Music Performance</li><li>• B.M. in Composition</li><li>• B.M. in Music Education</li></ul>
Accrediting Agency	<p>The National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) is the national accrediting agency for music and music-related disciplines.</p>
On-Site Visit Team Report	<p>The NASM on-site visit by peer evaluators was conducted in October, 2003. The team report addressed 13 categories of review criteria.</p> <p>The department has provided a response to the recommendations identified during the on-site visit. The department is not required to provide any further follow-up with the NASM prior to its next accreditation review.</p>
Strengths highlighted by the review team	<p>The review team highlighted numerous program strengths, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• a well-qualified, professionally active, collegial faculty;</li><li>• exceptional leadership;</li><li>• a hard-working and professional staff;</li><li>• a supportive and positive learning environment;</li><li>• a highly supportive central library;</li><li>• very strong outreach programs;</li><li>• exceptional instruction and service to many non-majors.</li></ul>
Concerns identified by the review team	<p>The review team identified the following as areas for continued attention and improvement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the current operating budget of the department appears minimally adequate to sustain the current mission, size, and number programs of the music unit;</li><li>• a need to upgrade the keyboard inventory;</li><li>• a need to complete planned improvements to the physical plant;</li><li>• a need to continue initiatives to strengthen cultural and musical diversity, jazz, and music technology.</li></ul>
Accreditation Status	<p>The NASM extended accreditation status to the programs in the Department of Music for ten years, the maximum period possible. The next visit for the school will take place in the 2013-2014 academic year.</p>

## Master of Public Administration Program in the Department of Political Science

Description	The Master of Public Administration degree prepares students for careers in management and policy analysis at all levels of government and in nonprofit and international management. The program is housed administratively in the Department of Political Science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Accrediting Agency	The National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration (NASPAA) is an institutional membership organization whose stated purpose is to promote excellence in public service education. The membership includes U.S. university programs in public affairs, public policy, public administration and nonprofit management.
On-Site Visit Team Report	<p>NASPAA conducted an on-site visit by peer evaluators in March, 2004.</p> <p>The team report addressed the nine categories of standards for NASPAA accreditation. The program provided a response to the recommendations identified during the on-site visit.</p> <p>The program is required to detail progress on two standards in its annual reports to NASPAA. All NASPAA-accredited programs are required to submit annual reports.</p>
Strengths highlighted by the review team	<p>The review team identified the following as strengths of the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the number of faculty with active academic publication records and simultaneous extensive involvement in applied research and service to the professional community in Iowa, nationally, and internationally;</li><li>• the extent of program cohesion, and the shared vision of the program director, program faculty, students, and alumni;</li><li>• an appropriate mission and well-conceived plan for carrying it out which was developed through an inclusive decision-making process.</li></ul>
Concerns identified by the review team	<p>The review team identified the following as matters for continued consideration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• the need to resolve issues of program governance for the political science department as a whole, particularly as relates to the question of further development of a separate public administration department or other options to promote growth of public administration courses, programs, and services;</li><li>• the need to resolve questions concerning the appropriate extent of the M.P.A. program's contribution to the undergraduate teaching mission of the campus;</li><li>• the need to resolve issues concerning the M.P.A. program's distance education mission and service to the state through the Des Moines program.</li></ul>
Accreditation Status	NASPAA extended accreditation status to the program for seven years, the maximum period possible. The next visit for the school is scheduled to take place in the 2010-2011 academic year.